

**Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

Thursday, May 13, 1999
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Natural Energy Lab
Kona, Hawaii

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

SAC Members Present: Ron Bass, Hannah Bernard, Jim Coon, Bill Friedl, Emily Gardner, Walter Haas, June Harrigan-Lum, Lou Herman, Greg Kaufman, Craig MacDonald, Charles Maxwell, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, Gene Nitta, Dick Poirier, Glenn Soma.

SAC Alternates Present: Linda Bruckner, Gary Hoover, Harold Meheula.

Excused: Bill Lennan, Colette Machado, James Mawae, Bob Schroeder, Mike Stanton, Claud Sutcliffe, Michael Tosatto, Terry White.

Absent: Mary Jane Caldwell

Others Present:

NOAA: Kellie Araki, Claire Cappelle, Allen Tom.

Public: Sallie Beavers, resident; John Float, resident; Susan Reeve, HMMC/Texas A&M; Scott Shero-Amba, DLNR-DOCARE.

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- 1999 NMS Strategic Plan
- Hawaii Whale Watching Study Update
- SAC Survey Results
- SAC Profiles (Draft)
- SAC Letterhead (Draft)
- SAC Education Working Group Survey
- Sustainable Seas Expedition Info
- SAC Research Working Group Notes
- SAC Conservation Subcommittee Minutes

Welcoming Remarks

The meeting was called to order by SAC Chairman James Coon. Mr. Coon called for the approval of minutes taken from the last meeting held on March 11, 1999. Minutes were approved as distributed.

Filling of Vacancies

Sanctuary Manager Allen Tom announced that the Hawaii County seat is currently open and applications are still being accepted. Deadline for applying is May 31, 1999. The Research alternate seat is presently vacant due to Dr. Isabella Abbott's departure. The SAC recommended to readvertise this seat and to solicit applications from qualified candidates. Notifications will be sent out to researchers and the public to announce this opening. Mr. Tom also announced that Isaac Harp is now the SAC's Native Hawaiian alternate.

SAC Chair Report

Mr. Coon announced a number of changes to the conduct of this and future SAC meetings:

- Meetings will follow Roberts Rules to the maximum extent possible
- Any SAC member may request of the chair that something be added to the agenda
- No discussion during committee reports until after reports are given
- No motions can be made during committee reports
- New business will always begin with a motion or proposal of some kind
- If time expires, chair will defer the item to the end of the agenda, at which time discussion will continue
- SAC secretary will serve as timekeeper

Sanctuary Manager Report

Mr. Tom updated the SAC on the National Marine Sanctuary Program's current budget situation, noting that the program took an 11 percent cut across the board. Every sanctuary site took a hit except Hawaii, which remained level funded due to strong congressional support. In all, the Hawaii Sanctuary received \$700,000 this year and is the third highest funded site.

Mr. Tom touched on a number of issues including the possible development of a new Sanctuary education project, the protocol for SAC correspondence with congressional members, Dewitt John's report on the SAC (initial findings show that the SAC has expressed significant concern with the state partnership), the Watchable Wildlife guide that is being developed for NOAA (authors will be coming to Hawaii in the summer to create a whale watching guide for the state), and the Navy testing on Maui. He indicated that he has asked the Navy to give a report on their activities to the SAC Conservation group.

State of Hawaii Activity Update

Emily Gardner, interim state co-manager, announced that an interpretive sign and viewscope was erected at Makapuu. The public unveiling was conducted by Ms. Gardner and Naomi McIntosh, Oahu Sanctuary Liaison.

Ms. Gardner noted that Jeff Walters, a planner with the state's Coastal Zone Management program was selected as the new State Co-Manager and will take over in July. Ms. Gardner's position will also end at that time. With regard to the new co-manager, some members of the SAC requested more background information on Mr. Walters and inquired about the unused funds in the state budget. Mr. Tom indicated that this money will stay with the State but that he will work closely with Mr. Walters on various projects to utilize these funds.

Research Working Group

Research Chair Paul Nachtigall distributed copies of the working notes from the meeting held on April 14, 1999 at the Honolulu Airport. Dr. Nachtigall indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the research working group's role, its goals, and its mission statement. Gene Nitta provided an update on his work at this meeting and discussed working jointly with the sanctuary research group. Dr. Nachtigall also noted that the group discussed going back to the research prioritization list that was identified in the research conference held in Maui in April 1995.

Conservation Subcommittee

Lou Herman, Conservation Chair, distributed copies of the minutes from the meeting held on April 30, 1999. Dr. Herman provided a brief summary of his presentation given at the conservation meeting and fielded questions regarding Hawaii's whale population. Dr. Herman also noted that this meeting had a sparse turnout and requested that a poll be taken to identify those still interested in participating in this group. A show of hands included: Hannah Bernard, Jim Coon, Walter Haas, Greg Kaufman, Charles Maxwell, Harold Meheula, Paul Nachtigall, and Dick Poirier.

Education Working Group

Education Chair Patty Miller announced that the next education meeting will be held via videoconferencing from various island sites. She noted that it is important to know who will be in attendance beforehand due to the amount of coordination involved in setting this up. This meeting is open to all SAC members interested in participating, not only education working group members. Ms. Miller stressed that this meeting will primarily focus on developing a list of priorities for the creation of a Sanctuary education project within \$10-15K. The group has the option of doing a number of smaller projects or focusing its efforts on developing one large project. She also noted that it is important to initiate these discussions prior to the meeting to maximize on time. More information on this meeting will be provided by fax and e-mail as they become finalized.

Ms. Miller also provided background information on the Sustainable Seas Expedition (SSE) project which is scheduled to come to Hawaii early next year. The research and education focus for this project here in Hawaii will include the exploration of humpback whales, deep water fish assemblage characterizations and deep water visualization. She

further noted that the Sanctuary will be looking at ways in which we can collect our own data at this time. Some of the local education efforts involved in SSE includes UH Sea Grant's Marine Options Program intern participation and DOE's KidScience activities.

Presentations

SAC Vice Chair Dick Poirier distributed a compilation of responses to the SAC survey that was previously sent to all members. According to Mr. Poirier, the purpose of this survey was to address some concerns that the SAC was not running as it should. No comments were offered on the survey.

June Harrigan-Lum provided fact sheets on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), the assessment framework being used for monitoring the state's water quality standards. In addition to discussing TMDLs, Ms. Harrigan-Lum provided a brief update on the state Department of Health's water quality monitoring study.

New Business

Mr. Poirier distributed draft copies of the SAC letterhead currently being designed. This letterhead will be used for official SAC correspondence, including items from the chair and items going out to the public. While copies of this letterhead will be provided to the SAC, Mr. Tom emphasized that all correspondence will be directed through and be approved by the SAC chair. Questions were raised regarding the letterhead logo and a recommendation was made to look at the SAC logos that were developed previously (Mr. Poirier noted that a motion was not needed on this issue since a letterhead sample had already been created for the SAC's review).

Mr. Poirier offered a motion stating that a letter be sent to the Sanctuary Manager and State Co-Manager requesting that SAC members be invited to all Sanctuary external activities and special events. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Poirier proposed a motion requesting that the Sanctuary Manager accept all unsolicited funding proposals (excluding RFPs) and distribute them, as he/she sees fit, to the SAC and Subcommittees for review and comments/recommendations. The motion failed to carry.

Mr. Poirier made a motion to request that training in the Robert's Rules of Order be provided prior to the next SAC meeting and that only those interested in attending the training would participate. The motion passed.

Greg Kaufman made a motion requesting that the state match or exceed Sanctuary monies dedicated to education and research from this year's funding allocation. The motion passed and Mr. Coon acknowledged that he will write a letter to the state requesting that they match or exceed Sanctuary funds dedicated to education and research (\$30K each). When questioned about the conservation committee, Mr. Tom conceded that it will not be provided with any funding at this time due to its late start in getting organized.

William Friedl made a motion to formally recognize Ms. Gardner's work as the Interim State Co-Manager for the Sanctuary. The group also noted that other members that have left the SAC should also be officially recognized in this way. The motion passed (Mr. Coon will write a letter of recognition for each of these members).

Unfinished Business

A recommendation was made that the SAC receive a list of action items and rationale, as well as proposed motions, prior to each SAC meeting. This list, sent in conjunction with the agenda, would allow members to be better prepared for meetings.

A recommendation was made that all items up for SAC consideration be forwarded to the Chair rather than the Sanctuary Manager.

A recommendation was made to move the public forum up closer to the beginning of SAC meetings to allow ample time for public input and discussion.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to have the SAC adopt the goal and mission statement developed by the research committee. The motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next SAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 8, 1999 at the Honolulu International Airport.